



# European Washington File

## Public Affairs Section

### Embassy of the United States, Stockholm, Sweden

Tuesday, January 13, 2004

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**Transcript: Defense Department Briefing, January 13, 2004**

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## **Transcript: Bush Outlines Regional Challenges at Special Summit of Americas**

*(President advocates reforms, good governance, democracy, trade)*

Leaders in the Western Hemisphere must implement reforms to ensure that governments are responsive to the needs of citizens and to promote opportunity for all, says President Bush.

Speaking January 12 at the inaugural ceremony of the Special Summit of the Americas in Monterrey, Mexico, Bush said that the region's governments must continue working to implement the agenda outlined by world leaders at the United Nations Summit on Financing for Development in March 2001.

The president noted that at the 2001 U.N. Summit, also held in Monterrey, world leaders forged the Monterrey Consensus, pledging to work for responsive governments and inclusive development. He said the leaders of the hemisphere's 34 democratic nations attending the January 12-13, 2004, Special Summit of the Americas must continue and intensify their efforts to advance the Monterrey Consensus.

"At this year's summit, we are embracing the challenge of implementing that Consensus to bring all the hemisphere's people into an expanding circle of development," Bush said.

Toward this end, Bush observed that the United States has increased its foreign aid and has altered the way that U.S. aid is provided to developing countries. Under its New Compact for Development, U.S. assistance is now linked to good governance, social investment in health and education, and economic reforms, Bush explained. "Development assistance should light a path to reform and economic growth, rather than perpetuate the need for further aid," he said.

The president urged other hemispheric nations to identify concrete steps to implement the Monterrey Consensus, and he cited several priorities for the region.

He said regional leaders must provide quality education and health care for their citizens, particularly those with HIV/AIDS. Bush also called for free-market reforms that will reduce poverty and foster a vibrant middle class. He advocated a number of economic reforms, such as increasing the amount of credit available to small businesses and reducing the time it takes to start these businesses. Bush said property rights in the hemisphere must also be strengthened so that land can be leveraged as a source of capital to start a business. Additionally, he voiced his support for reducing the cost for foreign workers to send money home to their families.

Over the long term, he said, trade "is the most certain path to lasting prosperity" in the hemisphere. Bush said that the United States is committed to free and fair trade in the hemisphere through the negotiation of a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) and a growing number of bilateral free-trade agreements with regional partners.

He pointed out that the United States' free-trade agreement with Chile entered into force on January 1, 2004, and noted that a U.S. free-trade agreement with the Central American nations of Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala is pending approval. Similarly, U.S. negotiations with Panama, the Dominican Republic and several Andean nations will begin soon, he said. Once completed, these free-trade agreements will cover more than two-thirds of region's gross domestic product, according to the president.

As these accords advance, Bush said, "the essential foundations of prosperity and progress remain democracy and the rule of law." To bolster these foundations, the president said, nations must curb corruption, deny safe haven to corrupt officials, and "create a culture of transparency in the Americas." He recalled that earlier in the day he had signed a proclamation denying corrupt officials entry into the United States, and encouraged other leaders to do the same.

At past Summits of the Americas, Bush said, regional leaders resolved that democracy is the only form of legitimate government in the hemisphere. Hence, the peoples of the Americas have an

obligation to promote and defend it, Bush said. The president added that regional support of democracy gives hope to those struggling to preserve democracy in Venezuela, Haiti and Bolivia. "Dictatorships have no place in the Americas," Bush said. He urged the region to work together for a rapid, peaceful transition to democracy in Cuba.

In conclusion, Bush said that hemispheric leaders have "great opportunities to improve the quality of life for all the people of the hemisphere." To achieve this, he said, goals must be set that are specific and measurable. As the region's leaders work to achieve these goals and to implement the Monterrey Consensus, the president said, these efforts will "lift all our nations and show the world that free societies and free markets can deliver real benefits to our citizens."

**Full transcript is available at**  
**<http://www.usemb.se/wireless/200/index.htm>**

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### **Transcript: Bush, Martin Stress Importance of Canadian-U.S. Relations**

*(Speak with reporters following breakfast meeting in Monterrey, Mexico)*

President Bush and Canada's new Prime Minister Paul Martin stressed the importance of the relationship between the two countries, in joint remarks to reporters following a breakfast meeting January 13 in Monterrey, Mexico.

"It's a vital relationship," Bush said. "(W)e share the same values of family and human dignity and treating people decently. And I really look forward to working with Prime Minister Martin."

"We share a continent and we share values and we share a perspective on what's the best thing for our people," Martin said, adding that "essentially, working together is really the way we are going to do the best thing for our people."

The two leaders are attending the Special Summit of the Americas in Monterrey.

Responding to a reporter's question, Bush announced that Canadian firms will be eligible to bid during the second round of bidding on U.S. contracts to rebuild Iraq. Canada had not been included on an initial December Defense Department list of countries whose firms would be eligible to bid on such contracts.

"Here's what's going to happen," Bush said.

"First of all, they've been very strong supporters of the Madrid conference. They want Iraq to succeed. They want Iraq to be free. They understand the stakes. We're having a free country in the midst of the Middle East.

"Canada, right now, is eligible for sub-contracting bids in the first round of construction projects. In the second round, in the second tranche of bidding, Canada will be eligible to bid," said Bush.

The new Canadian prime minister said Bush had been receptive to a shift in bidding policy during a "very good telephone conversation before Christmas.

"This really shows how it can work," Martin said.

The two leaders also answered questions on mad cow disease.

"This is an issue that is going to require close coordination between our two countries," Bush said. "I mean, we've got a lot of beef going across our border. We've got beef on the hoof and beef in the box.

"And the cattle industries are very important for our respective provinces and states. And the best way to make sure that we're able to satisfy the consumers in both our countries, as well as around the world is there ought to be very close coordination on regulation, on information and on the science.

"You know, I personally haven't stopped eating beef. I like to eat beef and will continue eating beef," Bush said, "because I believe the food supply is safe."

On space, Bush said he would be making a speech on the subject January 14. While declining to give

details of what he will say, he said the speech will focus on continued exploration of space and seeking new horizons.

**Full transcript is available at**  
**<http://www.usemb.se/wireless/200/index.htm>**

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### **Transcript: Presidents Bush, Fox Discuss White House Immigration Proposal**

*(U.S., Mexican leaders meet prior to Special Summit of the Americas)*

U.S. President George W. Bush and Mexican President Vicente Fox, meeting privately on January 12 before taking part in the Special Summit of the Americas being held January 12-13 in Monterrey, Mexico, discussed Bush's newly proposed temporary worker program as well as a variety of other topics that will be included on the broader Special Summit agenda.

At a press conference shortly after their meeting, Bush outlined his proposal for a temporary worker program that he said will "further the cause of safe, legal and orderly migration" to the United States. The program, he said, will match willing foreign workers with willing American employers when no American workers can be found to fill the jobs.

Under the terms of the program, undocumented workers currently in the United States will be able "to come out of the shadows and establish legal identities," Bush said. He noted that participants in the program will be issued a temporary worker card that will, among other benefits, allow them to travel back and forth between their home countries and the United States without fear of being denied re-entry.

Bush explained that he proposed the temporary worker program because he believes "it is the right thing to do" and because the program "recognizes the reality" of the important role played by undocumented foreign workers in the United States. The president said that the majority of these workers are "hard-working, decent, honorable people" who benefit the U.S. economy. He added that the United States "ought not have a system that

is based upon an undocumented under-class, but a system that is based upon law."

Bush also emphasized that the plan is not a form of amnesty, and would not place previously undocumented workers on an automatic path to citizenship. "I oppose amnesty because it encourages the violation of our laws and perpetuates illegal immigration," he said.

He explained that his proposal anticipates that most temporary workers will eventually return permanently to their home countries. "While my nation benefits from the dreams that newcomers bring to America, I believe that people should be better able to achieve their dreams at their home," he said.

Bush noted that it is important to give these foreign workers financial incentives to return home eventually. He indicated that he would work with the Mexican president and other leaders to provide these incentives.

For his part, Fox praised Bush's immigration proposal as a "very important step forward" and a "valuable proposal" that will not only benefit millions of Mexicans, but strengthen both the U.S. and Mexican economies. Fox said the proposal merits broad discussion in the U.S. Congress. Once the proposal has been analyzed and has had a chance to "mature," Fox said, "it should definitely be approved."

On a related subject, Bush said that the best long-term way to reduce the pressures that create illegal immigration is to expand economic opportunity at home. This theme will be a focal point for the 34 hemispheric leaders who convene in Monterrey for the Special Summit.

To extend the benefits that the United States and its partners in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) have enjoyed, Bush said the United States is committed to expanding free and fair trade. Other initiatives to grow hemispheric prosperity, he said, include reducing the cost of purchasing remittances to send money home, expanding access to credit for small businesses in the hemisphere, bolstering regional legal systems to better protect property rights, increasing investment



in health and education in the Americas, and intensifying the common fight against corruption.

Bush said U.S. efforts to support democracy in the region will also continue. To this end, he indicated that the United States will work with the Organization of American States (OAS) to ensure the integrity of the recall and referendum process in Venezuela. In order to protect democratic institutions in Bolivia, Bush said he and Fox will host the initial meeting of the Bolivia Support Group in Washington on January 16.

Reflecting on his meeting with his Mexican counterpart, Bush hailed the strength of the U.S.-Mexico relationship, while also noting that the Special Summit agenda is a comprehensive one that addresses the full range of challenges confronting the hemisphere. To help meet those challenges, "the United States will continue to work with our friends in the neighborhood in a spirit of common purpose and mutual respect," he said.

**Full transcript is available at**  
**<http://www.usemb.se/wireless/200/index.htm>**

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### **Fact Sheet: White House Outlines U.S. Accomplishments at Americas Summit**

*(Leaders agree to fight corruption, improve health and education, more)*

At the Special Summit of the Americas, held January 12-13 in Monterrey, Mexico, leaders from the 34 democratic countries of the Western Hemisphere pledged to fight corruption, spur growth and reduce poverty, and improve education and health in the region, according to a January 13 White House fact sheet.

The fact sheet, which highlights U.S. accomplishments at the Special Summit, cites President Bush's Summit remarks, in which he urged hemispheric leaders to strengthen the foundations for democracy and economic growth in the region. In pursuit of these goals, regional leaders agreed to a number of measures.

To intensify the region's efforts against corruption, the leaders agreed to strengthen the culture of transparency in the Americas, to deny safe haven to corrupt officials, to promote transparency in public financial management, and to hold consultations if transparency and anti-corruption objectives -- as articulated in the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption -- are seriously compromised.

To spur region growth and reduce poverty, leaders agreed to reduce significantly the time and cost to start a business by the next Summit of the Americas in 2005. The officials also endorsed the Inter-American Development Bank's goal of tripling credit provided to small and medium-sized businesses by 2007. Other measures included cutting in half the cost of sending remittances in the region by 2008 and strengthening property rights by the time the 2005 Summit is held.

In Monterrey, the leaders also reaffirmed their support for completing the Free Trade Area of the Americas, on schedule, by 2005, and expressed their shared interest in advancing the World Trade Organization's Doha negotiations.

To improve health and education in the region, the leaders agreed to provide HIV/AIDS antiretroviral therapy to all who need it, with a goal of treating at least 600,000 individuals by 2005. Leaders agreed on the urgent need to reform school systems in Latin America, and vowed to work on improving the quality of education in the region by publishing school-system performance reports by 2005.

**Full text is available at**  
**<http://www.usemb.se/wireless/200/index.htm>**

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### **Fact Sheet: Presidential Action on Lowering the Cost of Remittances**

*(White House cites U.S. initiatives to reduce money-transfer costs)*

While President Bush joined his hemispheric colleagues at the Special Summit of the Americas, held January 12-13 in Monterrey, Mexico, the White House issued a fact sheet outlining the Bush administration's efforts to help reduce the cost of

remittances, which play a vital role in the economic life of the Western Hemisphere. Remittances are money transfers that immigrants send home to their countries of origin, usually to help support family members.

The White House fact sheet, released January 13, applauded regional leaders for joining Bush in "committing [themselves] to create the conditions necessary to reduce by at least 50 percent the cost of sending money home to family members and local communities" by the year 2008. "Such transfers between our economies, known as remittances, have grown dramatically over the past decade, yet the fees involved remain high and constrain the impact of the flows," the White House said.

Increasingly, experts have come to recognize the potential of remittances as a development tool in the region. "Remittances represent the largest source of foreign capital for many of the poorest countries in the hemisphere and account for more than 10 percent of GDP [gross domestic product] in six countries (Nicaragua, Haiti, Guyana, El Salvador, Jamaica and Honduras)," the White House noted.

To examine ways to lower money-transfer fees, the United States will hold a conference in 2004, hosted by the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, on establishing regionally compatible electronic payment systems. "The conference will bring together financial-sector leaders and payment-system experts to discuss ways to reduce the cost" of remittances, according to the White House. "Target countries will include Jamaica, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Haiti, Mexico, Bolivia, and Colombia," the White House said. "The conference will also promote efficient investment of remittances in local communities."

In addition, the White House cited the U.S.-Mexico Partnership for Prosperity initiative for achieving "significant success" in lowering money-transfer costs. Since the program's inception, "the cost of sending remittances from the United States to Mexico has fallen by 58 percent," the White House observed.

Following is the text of the White House fact sheet, with a summary of the president's actions to reduce the cost of remittances:

(begin fact sheet)

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 13, 2004

## FACT SHEET: LOWERING THE COST OF REMITTANCES PRESIDENTIAL ACTION

Leaders of the hemisphere joined President Bush in committing to create the conditions necessary to reduce by at least 50 percent the cost of sending money home to family members and local communities by 2008. Such transfers between our economies, known as remittances, have grown dramatically over the past decade, yet the fees involved remain high and constrain the impact of the flows.

The Increasing Importance of Remittances: Remittances, the money sent by migrants to their families and friends living abroad, have tripled in the last six years and now total over \$32 billion annually in the Western Hemisphere -- more than four times official development assistance flows to the region. Remittances represent the largest source of foreign capital for many of the poorest countries in the hemisphere and account for more than 10 percent of GDP in six countries (Nicaragua, Haiti, Guyana, El Salvador, Jamaica and Honduras).

Some 85 percent of the flows to Latin America and the Caribbean come from within the hemisphere, including more than three-quarters of the total, or \$25 billion, from the United States alone. These hard-earned funds go directly to families and communities where they are used for improving the quality of life of the citizens of the hemisphere -- paying for school books, purchasing medicine, or starting a business.

Summit Commitment to Reduce Remittance Costs: Fees associated with sending remittances remain high, averaging 12.5 percent, or \$4 billion annually. Leaders at the Summit committed to reduce this regional average cost by at least half by 2008. Leaders committed [themselves] to accomplishing

this by, as needed or appropriate: promoting competition between providers of remittance transfers; eliminating regulatory obstacles and other restrictive measures that affect the cost of sending; and adopting new technologies while maintaining effective financial oversight.

U.S. Action: President Bush is committed to support the region's efforts to lower remittance costs. To support the Special Summit of the America's commitment, the U.S. will hold a conference hosted by the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta later this year on establishing regionally compatible electronic payment systems. The conference will bring together financial-sector leaders and payment-system experts to discuss ways to reduce the cost of transfer, including sharing experiences with automated clearinghouses (ACH) and other electronic payment systems, and exploring ways to harmonize payment systems in the region and build regional electronic payments interchanges; and provide more than \$3 million in assistance over the next two years to expand access to financial services in Latin America and the Caribbean. Target countries will include Jamaica, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Haiti, Mexico, Bolivia, and Colombia. The conference will also promote efficient investment of remittances in local communities.

U.S.-Mexico Partnership for Prosperity: U.S. and Mexico have already achieved significant success in lowering the cost of remittances through this innovative program. Bilateral efforts to promote competition in the market for remittance services and to bring those without bank accounts into the formal financial system have produced dramatic results since 1999; the cost of sending remittances from the United States to Mexico has fallen by 58 percent. Remittance flows have grown at a rate of 10 percent annually.

(end fact sheet)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State.  
Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

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## Saddam's Status Won't Affect Iraq's Ability to Try Him

*(Defense Department report: Iraq operations)*

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said Saddam Hussein's current status as an enemy prisoner of war (EPW) will not affect the U.S. government's plans to have Iraqis "play a significant role" in any trial of the ex-dictator.

Rumsfeld was asked what kind of intelligence information the United States is getting from interrogations of Hussein, why it was decided to classify him as an EPW, and whether doing so would have an effect on U.S. plans to have Saddam's trial be a largely Iraqi matter. In reply, Rumsfeld noted that the CIA was handling Saddam's interrogation, not the Defense Department, and that the decision to classify him as an EPW was made by an interagency team of lawyers.

"However, his status can be reviewed at any time -- more than once," Rumsfeld said. "And so as additional information [is obtained] or as decisions are made, that may either be changed or amplified."

As for the possible effect of Hussein's EPW status on any trial, Rumsfeld said, "The reality is that the president has said, and the decision has been made, that he believes the Iraqi people need to be involved in that process in whatever way it is ultimately decided."

## CANADA TO BE ABLE TO BID ON U.S. CONTRACTS, SUBCONTRACTS IN IRAQ

Canada is now among those countries whose firms will be allowed to bid on both U.S. contracts and subcontracts for Iraq reconstruction projects, Rumsfeld says.

Canada had not been included on a December Defense Department list of countries whose companies would be allowed to bid on such contracts. Speaking at a Pentagon briefing January 13, Rumsfeld noted that the governmentwide policy announced in December specified countries eligible to bid on prime contracts. "It did not address subcontracts," Rumsfeld said, "indicating that subcontracts could be bid on by anybody."



There is a second tranche of contracts to let, Rumsfeld said, for which an additional number of countries will be permitted to bid. President Bush has "announced that Canada will be in the second tranche, and in the meantime, Canada could bid on the subcontracts," Rumsfeld said.

#### CIVILIAN CASUALTY INCIDENT IN BAGHDAD WILL BE INVESTIGATED

An incident in Baghdad January 12, in which civilians traveling behind a U.S. military convoy were killed when an improvised explosive device targeting the convoy exploded, will be investigated, according to Marine Corps General Peter Pace, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Briefing with Rumsfeld at the Pentagon January 13, Pace said that after the event took place, dead Iraqi civilians were found. "We do not know how they were killed -- if they were killed by the blast or something else. That is being investigated by the command, and that will be available to you in Baghdad" when it has been fully investigated, Pace said.

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

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#### **Text: Ex-Im Bank Offers Multiple Financing Plans for Iraqi Reconstruction**

*(Bank reaching out to anyone who can help Iraqis rebuild their nation)*

To support Iraqi reconstruction efforts, the Export-Import Bank of the United States (Ex-Im Bank) is providing short-term credit insurance for the Trade Bank of Iraq, guarantees or insurance in third countries, and working capital guarantees for U.S. subcontractors in U.S. government-funded reconstruction contracts.

Ex-Im Bank's Vice Chairman April Foley, speaking January 13 at the Outreach 2004 workshop in Amman, Jordan, said her organization is actively

reaching out to those who can use its financing to help the Iraqi people rebuild their nation.

"We believe that our programs have dual benefits: They can give Iraq access to high-quality U.S. goods and services and, at the same time, permit U.S. exporters to access new Iraqi customers," said Foley, according to a January 13 Ex-Im Bank press release.

Foley is in Amman as part of a three-nation trip to Jordan, Iraq, and Kuwait where she is meeting with Iraqi, Middle Eastern and Western business, financial and government leaders in an effort to advance the Ex-Im Bank's efforts to support Iraqi reconstruction.

Following is the text of the Ex-Im Bank press release:

(begin text)

News Press Releases 2004

JANUARY 13, 2004

Contact: Andrew Yarrow (202) 565-3200

**EX-IM BANK WILL SUPPORT IRAQI RECONSTRUCTION, VICE CHAIR SAYS** April Foley Presents Three Financing Options in Speech in Amman, Jordan

AMMAN, JORDAN -- The Export-Import Bank of the United States (Ex-Im Bank) can provide three different types of financing to support Iraqi reconstruction efforts, Bank First Vice President and Vice Chair April Foley told a conference on Iraqi reconstruction today in Amman, Jordan.

Ex-Im Bank can provide short-term credit insurance under its new, \$500 million facility for the Trade Bank of Iraq; guarantees or insurance if there is a creditworthy source of repayment in a third country where the Bank is open for business; and working capital guarantees for U.S. subcontractors to U.S. government-funded reconstruction contracts.

"The Bush Administration is deeply committed to helping Iraq's people achieve democracy and a better life," Foley said in a speech at the Outreach 2004 workshop in Amman this morning. "At Ex-Im Bank, we have put in place several initiatives to

finance Iraqi reconstruction, and we are actively reaching out to anyone who can use our financing to help the Iraqi people build a new nation and a bright future for themselves. We believe that our programs have dual benefits: They can give Iraq access to high-quality U.S. goods and services and, at the same time, permit U.S. exporters to access new Iraqi customers."

Foley is in Amman as part of a three-nation trip to Jordan, Iraq, and Kuwait to advance Ex-Im Bank's efforts to support Iraqi reconstruction. During the trip, she is to meet with Iraqi, Middle Eastern, and Western business, financial, and government leaders.

Ex-Im Bank's Trade Bank facility, which became operational last month, utilizes two forms of short-term insurance: Bank Letter of Credit Insurance Policies: Ex-Im Bank will insure letters of credit issued by the Trade Bank and confirmed by a commercial bank. This provides comprehensive coverage to the confirming bank against the failure of the Trade Bank to pay the confirming bank under an irrevocable letter of credit. Financial Institution Buyer Credit Insurance Policies: Ex-Im Bank will provide comprehensive coverage on short-term credits extended to the Trade Bank by an insured bank. U.S. exporters will receive payment under letters of credit issued by the insured bank. Certain provisions of the policy (reporting and claim filing periods) will be aligned to those of the Bank Letter of Credit policy.

Under Ex-Im Bank's Working Capital Guarantee Program, it will consider applications to support pre-export activities of subcontractors -- particularly small businesses -- operating under U.S. government-funded reconstruction projects.

Ex-Im Bank also will consider applications for financing of U.S. exports to Iraq under its loan guarantee, working capital, and credit insurance programs if there is a creditworthy source of repayment in a third country.

Ex-Im Bank this year marks its 70th year of helping finance the sale of U.S. exports, primarily to emerging markets throughout the world, by providing loan guarantees, export credit insurance, and direct loans. In fiscal year 2003, Ex-Im Bank, an

independent federal agency, authorized financing to support \$14.3 billion of U.S. exports worldwide. For more information on Ex-Im Bank and its initiatives to support Iraqi reconstruction, visit [www.exim.gov](http://www.exim.gov).

(end text)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State.  
Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

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### **Text: Terrorist Designation Applied to Aliases of Kurdistan Group KADEK**

*(Includes new names: Kurdistan People's Congress (KHK), People's Congress of Kurdistan, acronym KONGRA-GEL)*

The United States has amended the terrorist designations of the Kurdistan Freedom and Democracy Congress (KADEK and other aliases) to include its new names: Kurdistan People's Congress (KHK), People's Congress of Kurdistan, and the acronym KONGRA-GEL, the State Department announced January 13.

The amendment "preserves the U.S. Government's ability to take action against this organization under its new names," making it illegal for persons in the United States or subject to U.S. jurisdiction to provide material support to this terrorist group, requiring U.S. financial institutions to block assets held by the group, and enabling the State Department to deny visas to the group's representatives.

Following is the announcement:

(begin text)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Washington, D.C.  
Office of the Spokesman  
January 13, 2004

Statement by J. Adam Ereli, Deputy Spokesman

AMENDMENT OF TERRORIST  
DESIGNATIONS OF THE KURDISTAN

**FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY CONGRESS  
(KADEK)**

Deputy Secretary of State Richard L. Armitage has amended the designations of the Kurdistan Freedom and Democracy Congress (KADEK and other aliases) to include its new names: Kurdistan People's Congress (KHK), People's Congress of Kurdistan, and the acronym KONGRA-GEL. This amendment, published today, January 13, 2004 in the Federal Register, applies to the designations of this organization as a foreign terrorist organization under the Immigration and Nationality Act and under Executive Order 13224. Deputy Secretary Armitage made this decision in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Treasury, and in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security in connection with the amendment of the designation under Executive Order 13224. KADEK, now commonly known as KONGRA-GEL, has continued to engage in terrorist activity since announcing its name change on November 11, 2003.

The amendment of the foreign terrorist organization designation preserves the U.S. Government's ability to take action against this organization under its new names in accordance with the provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended. This act makes it illegal for persons in the United States or subject to U.S. jurisdiction to provide material support to this terrorist group. It requires U.S. financial institutions to block assets held by them; and it enables us to deny visas to representatives of this group. The designation under Executive Order 13224 blocks property and prohibits the making or receiving of any contribution of funds, goods, or services to or for the benefit of this group.

(end text)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State.  
Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

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**U.S., OAS Co-Sponsoring Landmine Awareness  
Event in Florida**

*(Meeting will bring together landmine survivors, experts)*

By Eric Green  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The U.S. State Department and the Organization of American States (OAS) are co-sponsoring a January 23-25 conference in Miami, Florida, to focus attention on the problem of anti-personnel landmines, which are thought to be responsible for killing or maiming people daily in 60 countries around the world, including a number of nations in Latin America.

The State Department's Donna Hopkins said the event will bring together landmine survivors and experts, and representatives of non-governmental and private organizations. The focus will be on the ongoing need to provide for trauma care, rehabilitation and prosthetics support for landmine survivors, training for their socio-economic reintegration into society, and the need for nations affected by landmines to recover from the damage they cause.

Hopkins, a foreign affairs officer in the Department's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement, which is helping organize the program in Miami, said in a statement that "governments alone cannot solve this problem" of landmines continuing to injure and kill people. Civil society, she said, "must engage, with all the humanitarian and financial resources at its command." The State Department initiated a Mine-Action Public-Private Partnership in 1999, and to date has garnered 40 partner organizations to remove mines and help landmine survivors. Details about this partnership are available on the State Department web site at [www.state.gov/t/pm/wra](http://www.state.gov/t/pm/wra).

The event is also being co-sponsored by a civil society organization, the South Florida Landmine Action Group, which says the United States is a world leader in "mine action," the term used for humanitarian demining, mine risk education, landmine survivor assistance, and research and development of counter-ordnance technology. Another sponsor is the Missouri-based non-profit group, People to People International.

The State Department's Hopkins said that despite the global investment of \$1.6 billion in humanitarian

mine action since 1988 -- more than half of which came from the United States -- the global community "has only scratched the surface of the problem." She added that besides the huge costs involved in removing 40 million to 60 million landmines that have been buried, an urgent need exists for medical care, including rehabilitation and support for landmine survivors, who also need training to reintegrate into their nations' societies.

In Latin America, the OAS, with support from the United States, has operated since 1992 mine-action programs in Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Peru.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

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## **Improved Security In Liberia Heralds More Support for Development Funding**

*(Officials speak in advance of international donor conference)*

By James Fisher-Thompson  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The security situation in war-torn Liberia has improved enough to start planning for more long-range development assistance, according to Department of Defense and Department of State officials who are involved in supporting the 8,700 peacekeepers in the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). They spoke in advance of a donor's conference on Liberia set for early February.

After providing more than \$8.2 million on humanitarian assistance to Liberia and \$26 million in military-related assistance to ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) and U.N. forces in 2003, the U.S. government is poised to spend a further \$245 million for peacekeeping and \$200 million dollars on humanitarian assistance to the West African nation, according to Colonel Victor Nelson, director for West Africa in the Defense Department Office of International Security Affairs.

The funding for peacekeeping was vital to support the ECOWAS/UN intervention in the summer of 2003 that -- with the help of a limited number of U.S. ground forces -- helped stem the violence in the West African nation.

Nelson said security funding was still an important issue because the UNMIL force is due to almost double to 15,000 troops in February when the international reconstruction conference on Liberia will take place. The career soldier said he plans to visit Liberia later this month to assess security needs in the region.

"The U.S. government" he said, "is currently discussing next steps with U.N. special representative [Jacques] Klein in Liberia" about how the new U.S. funding can best be used.

In Congress, he said, there were differing opinions about whether more money should go to "security sector reform" or be spent on "more humanitarian-related things. Our position right now in the Inter-agency [Working Group on Liberia] is that if you don't have security, all the money you spend on humanitarian efforts will go down the drain if fighting is renewed," he explained.

According to the State Department, U.S. assistance to Liberia, besides providing humanitarian relief, will also include developmental goals: resettlement of refugees; reintegration of former combatants, especially child soldiers; community revitalization and providing basic social services; reconstructing police and judicial structures; establishing an independent media; military reform; forest sector rehabilitation; and support to the Central Bank.

The civil war in Liberia that began in 1989 came to an end in 2003 when a peace agreement brokered among the warring parties and groups called for President Charles Taylor to yield power and depart to Nigeria. The peace came about, in part, because of an ECOWAS-backed intervention force of West African troops, some of whom had been trained by the U.S. Army.

Colonel Nelson, former U.S. Defense Attaché in Nigeria, had helped organize the training of several battalions of Nigerian troops in the fall of 2001 in Operation Focus Relief (OFR), some of whom were



later used for peace enforcement duties in the region. The Nigerian force that was rapidly deployed to Monrovia to stop the killing "got rave reviews for their abilities and comportment," said Nelson. "Also, other elements that had received OFR training and a Ghanaian contingent, which had received ACOTA (Africa Contingency Operations Training Assistance) program training, all did very well."

[ACOTA is the follow-on program to the highly successful African Crisis Response Initiative (ACRI), which helped train the armies of seven African nations in peacekeeping operations while enhancing their overall professional skills as security forces supporting democracies.]

Acting Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Charles Snyder believes Liberia is doing well "given where it was -- that it was a totally failed state. You can now see the way forward. The U.N. is beginning to get some traction on the ground."

Snyder was hopeful after his recent meeting with U.N. Special Representative Klein. "Clearly, Klein is very much an activist and he has a rational plan, which is what we were hoping for. He is talking about reestablishing the rule of law as the U.N. forces move out."

In that light, Snyder said "the upcoming donor's conference is so important" in generating the money needed for the rebuilding process. To that end the U.S. government continues to cooperate with the United Nations and other international organizations to provide humanitarian aid aimed at refugees and other war-affected populations in Liberia.

In addition, the United States also provides funding for the civilian police mission in Liberia, for the U.N. Development Program's reintegration efforts for 3,500 ex-combatants, and for two Treasury Department advisors to the National Transitional Government of Liberia.

The State Department notes that other foreign contributions to stability in Liberia include \$42 from the European Union (EU). Meanwhile, the Scandinavian nations, Canada, Japan, China and

other donors have offered to contribute to the Liberia reconstruction effort.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

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### **Text: Greenspan Sees "Little" Trouble in Global Current Account Adjustment**

*(But warns against protectionism eroding financial markets' flexibility)*

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan says that global current account imbalances will be defused with "little" disruption as long as globalization is allowed to progress and make the international financial system even more flexible.

Speaking January 13 in Berlin, Greenspan said that, in the past, most developed economies managed the adjustment of their current account imbalances without crises due to their institutional strengths and the growing ability of the world economy to absorb shocks, stabilize and recover.

"The greater the degree of international flexibility, the less the risk of a crisis," he said.

Citing "increasingly visible" signs of emerging protectionism, Greenspan warned that any new protectionist initiatives could "significantly" erode this flexibility.

He said that, for the moment, funding U.S. current account deficits does not seem to be a problem. While the U.S. dollar has fallen against other currencies, he said, inflation -- the typical symptom of a weak currency -- "appears quiescent."

But if the rise in the deficit continues, he said, "at some point in the future further adjustments will be set in motion that will eventually slow and presumably reverse" foreign investors' demand for U.S. debt instruments. In recent years the U.S. economy has consistently attracted foreign capital, which through capital account surpluses helped it balance the current account deficits.



Citing historical evidence, Greenspan said that current account deficits that have emerged among developed countries since 1980 have reached the level of double-digit percentages of gross domestic product (GDP) before market forces enforced reversal. At \$135.4 billion in the third quarter of 2003 the U.S. current account deficit represents roughly 5 percent of GDP. And the U.S. ability to finance its external deficit in a currency -- the U.S. dollar -- preferred by countries borrowing in international markets has "presumably" enlarged the capability of the United States relative to most of its trading partners to incur foreign debt, Greenspan added.

**Full text is available at**  
**<http://www.usemb.se/wireless/200/index.htm>**

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### **Text: Third Cow Traced to Suspect Herd, U.S. Agriculture Dept. Says**

*(Three animals to be quarantined, department adds)*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has identified a third cow that had been part of the Washington state herd in which a case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) was identified in December.

The animal, and two others previously traced to the herd, will be removed and quarantined, according to a January 12 USDA statement. The cows are part of a group of 81 cattle that came to the Washington farm from Canada, the statement said.

Using an "abundance of caution" in its ongoing investigation of the case of BSE, USDA is tracing the current whereabouts of all 81 cattle, according a USDA spokesperson.

Also January 12, USDA officially published regulations to increase controls over the testing and processing of cattle at slaughter.

BSE is also known as "mad-cow" disease.

Following is the text of USDA's statement:

(begin text)

BSE Update- January 12, 2004

In regard to the ongoing investigation, USDA has traced a third animal to the herd in Mattawa, Washington. Two animals were previously traced to this herd. The three animals in the Mattawa herd will be removed.

To summarize:

Eighty-one cows came from Canada with the positive cow. USDA's investigation has yielded the following information:

-- One is the positive cow.

-- Three are under a hold order at a premise in Mattawa and will be removed in the near future.

-- USDA believes 7 may have gone to another dairy and is working to determine if those animals are still there. The State has placed a hold on this facility in order to facilitate the investigation.

-- Nine are in the index herd.

-- Some of the remaining cows that came in that shipment may be on the index premises, but at this time the identity of these animals has not been confirmed.

On Monday, January 12, 2004, three rules and one notice were published in the Federal Register by USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS).

The rules and notice are:

-- An interim final rule declaring that the Specified Risk Materials; the skull, brain, trigeminal ganglia, eyes, vertebral column, spinal cord and dorsal root ganglia of cattle 30 months of age or older; and the small intestine of all cattle are prohibited in the food supply. (Tonsils were already excluded). These prohibitions will be effective immediately upon publication in the Federal Register.

-- An interim final rule expanding on the prohibition of central nervous system tissues in advanced meat recovery products.

-- A final rule to prohibit air injection stunning.

-- A notice announcing that FSIS inspectors will not mark ambulatory cattle that have been targeted for BSE surveillance testing as "inspected and passed" until negative test results are obtained.

Additional information on BSE can be obtained by visiting the USDA website at <http://www.usda.gov/BSE>

(end text)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

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## **West Africa Poised to Be Key U.S. Natural Gas Supplier**

*(ChevronTexaco executive discusses intricacies of supplying liquefied natural gas)*

By Charles W. Corey  
Washington File Staff Writer

Houston, Texas -- West Africa is poised to be a key supplier of natural gas to help meet ever-expanding U.S. energy demands, says Bill Hauhe, manager of global liquefied natural gas (LNG) market development at ChevronTexaco.

Speaking at a recent LNG workshop at the second annual Africa Oil and Gas Conference, sponsored by the Corporate Council on Africa in Houston, Texas, Hauhe said the United States is currently importing natural gas from Canada because U.S. demand now outstrips U.S. production. Demand for natural gas in the United States is predicted to increase year after year, he said.

(The United States Department of Energy recently forecast that by 2025, natural gas produced on the North American continent will meet only 75 percent of U.S. demand, thus further fueling the need for greater natural gas imports.)

"In North America the question is not market capacity," Hauhe told his audience. "To us [at ChevronTexaco] that is not the issue. The issue is how do you get LNG into the United States? There are only four LNG receiving terminals in existence right now," he said: Everett, Massachusetts, outside Boston; Cove Point, Maryland; Elba Island, Georgia; and Lake Charles, Louisiana.

"Several others are being proposed," he said, "and for us, we are proposing our own LNG terminal," known as Port Pelican, which ChevronTexaco expects to complete within the decade.

ChevronTexaco's proposed Port Pelican LNG terminal -- which will be located 37 miles offshore in the Gulf of Mexico -- Hauhe said, will utilize existing pipelines and infrastructure to efficiently bring liquefied natural gas into the United States.

"We will be able to bring in ships from the Atlantic Basin, tie them up offshore, offload the ships' LNG supply into storage, regassify it [reconverting it to gas from the liquefied form in which it is shipped], and send it onshore [via pipeline]. For us, we see that as the key issue."

( LNG is natural gas cooled to minus 259 degrees Fahrenheit. The cold temperature shrinks the gas into liquid form so it can be transported aboard double-hulled tankers. The LNG is then regasified and fed into existing natural gas pipelines for distribution.)

Hauhe reminded his audience that ChevronTexaco is Africa's largest U.S.-based private investor, operating in more than 50 countries on the continent. It was ChevronTexaco, he said, that scored the first offshore oil discoveries in both Angola and Nigeria. He said the company plans to invest up to \$20 billion on the African continent over the next five years.

Hauhe called LNG production a "catalyst for positive change" across the continent, noting that ChevronTexaco is hoping to export large amounts of LNG from its production operations located offshore of Nigeria and Angola.

Special challenges come with the development of natural gas fields, he said. "The challenge of [developing] gas as opposed to oil is that it usually has to be developed in very large volumes to justify the economics of the long-distance transportation" and infrastructure needed, he explained.

"Unless there is a local indigenous demand for that gas, the gas that is produced must find a market or be reinjected into the ground. The processing and transportation of needed gas to distant markets, he said, "requires vast sums of capital, specialized equipment, infrastructure, and special expertise."

For distances up to about 2,000 kilometers, he said, pipelines are usually the most economical way to move gas to market. For longer distances, such as between West Africa and North America, he said, special double-hulled LNG ships are the preferred option.

The construction of needed LNG infrastructure, Hauhe explained, will allow for the expansion of domestic gas utilization across the North American market.

Hauhe went on to outline what both host governments and investors are expecting to gain from the development of natural gas projects across Africa.

With natural gas, he said, host African governments are expecting to utilize gas revenues to achieve sustainable development. "They want something that is not just going to last for six years and go away. We are talking about decades of development and sustainability for the economy. Also, they want to see ... something done about developing and further enhancing their own energy resources."

From an investor perspective, Hauhe said, ChevronTexaco seeks host governments that will be supportive of LNG projects as they are developed. "These are long-term projects," he reminded everyone, "so we would like to see the governments there standing behind these projects and supporting them."

Acceptable price structures and predictable commercial and financing terms in the host country are also essential to any successful project, he said,

because the natural gas price must be competitive worldwide.

Any new project needs to be competitive, he said, adding that market prices for LNG dictate the terms of the deal. "You will basically sell at no higher, no lower than the market -- and that is constantly changing," he said, which poses an "ongoing dynamic" between the buyer and the seller on pricing.

In that regard, he said, "we want to make sure that each individual project is competitive within a portfolio of projects. We want to ensure that each project is robust for the company and partners, including the government if they take an equity stake."

What is also important, he said, is attention to the market. "LNG buyers can never be forgotten. The four key issues are reserves, and market, market, and market. LNG has to have a place to go. It is not a fungible [interchangeable] commodity like oil is yet."

"In the world today, oil can go to any one of hundreds of refineries around the world. You put it in an oil tanker and it can go basically anywhere, and in fact, cargoes are diverted all the time -- bought and sold many times on the water -- and end up anywhere. It is traded on an international market basis... Everybody can pretty much use it."

LNG markets are more limited, however. "There are not that many places where you can deliver LNG" because of the extensive infrastructure required, he said.

Speaking for ChevronTexaco, Hauhe said his company looks for long-term relationships of 20 years or more. He then outlined the challenges for LNG projects, reminding everyone that LNG projects are unique and different from oil projects.

"In oil projects, you develop those operations knowing that you will have a place to put your oil," he said. "In LNG projects, you don't necessarily know that, so you need to develop the commercial arrangements simultaneously with the technical and reserve-type activities so you can effectively develop a project."

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

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**Transcript: State Department Noon Briefing,  
January 13, 2004**

*(Canada, Iraq, Iran, North Korea, Libya, Mideast, Israel/Syria, Russia, Mauritania, Sudan)*

State Department Deputy Spokesman J. Adam Ereli briefed.

Following is the State Department transcript:

(begin transcript)

U.S. Department of State  
Daily Press Briefing Index  
Washington, DC  
January 13, 2004

BRIEFER: J. Adam Ereli, Deputy Spokesman

**CANADA**

- Eligibility for Iraq Contracts
- Madrid Conference

**IRAQ**

- Reconstruction Assistance
- Security
- Political Transition/November 15 Agreement
- Constitutional Assembly/Elections
- Ayatollah Sistani
- UN Role in Elections
- Reconstruction Activities and Progress

**IRAN**

- Compliance with IAEA Requirements
- Elections

**NORTH KOREA**

- Deputy Secretary Armitage Meeting with Chinese Director General for Asian Affairs Fu Ying
- Six Party Talks
- Highly Enriched Uranium Program
- KEDO/DeTrani Meetings

**LIBYA**

- Elimination of WMD
- Cooperation with UK
- Discussions with Egypt

**MIDDLE EAST**

- A/S Bill Burns Travel to Region

**ISRAEL/SYRIA**

- Peace Talks

**RUSSIA**

- Troops in Georgia/Istanbul Commitments

**MAURITANIA**

- Pan-Sahel Initiative

**SUDAN**

- Sudan Peace Talks/Secretary's Calls to Dr. Garang

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DAILY PRESS BRIEFING**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2004**

**(ON THE RECORD UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)**

MR. ERELI: My apologies, everybody, for keeping you waiting. I hope I had enough time to get answers to your questions, but let's see. It never seems to be foolproof.

QUESTION: Well, the President is going to make an exception of Canada insofar as getting primary contracts, at least in the next round in Iraq. Are there other countries that might be treated similarly? Do you know?

MR. ERELI: I think we've always made it clear in discussing this issue of eligibility for prime contracts in Iraq that circumstances can change. I think what the President said in Mexico today was that Canada has made clear its commitment to the vision of a free Iraq, and it is in recognition of that commitment that they're eligible for bidding on contracts, I think, in the second tranche of contracts that will be coming out on Iraq.

In answer to your question, Barry, we've always said circumstances can change. If there are new developments with respect to other countries, we would certainly take that into consideration and report it.

**Full transcript is available at**  
**<http://www.usemb.se/wireless/200/index.htm>**

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### **Transcript: Defense Department Briefing, January 13, 2004**

*(Iraq: Iraqi troop strength/increased Iraqi cooperation/US regime change policy/attacks on U.S. helicopters/affiliation of recent detainees/timing of return of sovereignty/investigation into death of civilians/contracts & sub-contracts for Canada, others/trial possibilities for Saddam Hussein; U.S. military: end strength/capability/cost of Joint Strike Fighter program; Rumsfeld: conversations with Paul O'Neill; U.S. Senate/Roche nomination for secretary of the army; India & Pakistan)*

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Marine Corps General Peter Pace briefed reporters.

Following is a transcript of the briefing:

(begin transcript)

Defense Department Operational Briefing  
Tuesday, January 13, 2004  
1:49 p.m. EST

Presenter: Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld  
(Participating was General Peter Pace, Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff.)

SEC. RUMSFELD: Good afternoon. Since the United States came under attack on September 11th, coalition forces have removed two terrorist regimes, hunted down Saddam Hussein and roughly two-thirds of known senior al Qaeda operatives, broken up terrorist cells on several continents, and undoubtedly prevented other terrorist attacks.

These are important achievements which demonstrate the talent and courage of our forces, the breadth of our efforts. One result has been an increased so-called operational tempo of the force. The tempo has increased significantly. We hope and believe that the current stress that is put on the

force is a spike, if you will, a temporary increase, rather than a -- what would prove to be a plateau. Very simply, we just simply do not expect to have 100,000, 120,000 troops in a single country permanently deployed.

The department is taking a number of immediate actions to relieve that stress. Increasing Iraq security forces is one. The number now is approaching 200,000 -- clearly the largest security element in the country, larger than all other security forces of the coalition combined. We're increasing international military participation in Iraq, and we're dealing aggressively with those who threaten the transition to a self-reliant Iraq.

Undoubtedly, in recent months some have called -- not surprisingly, either. I would say, understandably, people have called for an increase in end strength, increase in the number of permanent people in the United States armed forces. The question really is not whether we can afford an increase in end strength; of course we can. The United States is perfectly capable of paying for additional forces, if we decide that that's desirable.

**Full transcript is available at**  
**<http://www.usemb.se/wireless/200/index.htm>**

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### **Text: U.S. Spacecraft Camera Provides Panoramic View of Mars Surface**

*(Images also depict intriguing patch of folded soil near landing site)*

A camera aboard the U.S. Mars Exploration Rover Spirit -- which landed on Mars late January 3 -- is being used to provide scientists back on Earth with a color panorama of the Martian surface that includes everything from nearby rocks to hills on the horizon.

Spirit's flight team at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, says that the six-wheeled, 180-kilogram rover is expected to be rolled off its lander platform in Gusev Crater no sooner than January 15. The rover will then spend the next three months exploring the Martian surface to determine if the planet ever had enough water to sustain life.



In the meantime, while still perched on its lander platform, Spirit has transmitted color images of Mars taken by its panoramic camera -- the highest resolution images ever taken on the surface of another planet. The images have been stitched together by scientists to form a panoramic mosaic of the Martian surface 75 frames across and three frames tall.

"Seeing the panorama totally assembled instead of in individual pieces gives a much greater appreciation for the position of things and helps in developing a sense of direction," said one researcher.

Also, one of the new images from Spirit shows a patch of intriguing soil near the lander in greater detail than an earlier view. Scientists have dubbed the patch "Magic Carpet" for how some of the soil behaved when scraped during the rover's landing.

"It has been detached and folded like a piece of carpet sliding across the floor," said science team member John Grotzinger of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge.

Following is the text of the press release:

(begin text)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, Calif.

#### SPIRIT'S SURROUNDINGS BECKON IN COLOR PANORAMA

The first 360-degree color view from NASA's Spirit Mars Exploration Rover presents a range of tempting targets from nearby rocks to hills on the horizon.

"The whole panorama is there before us," said rover science-team member Dr. Michael Malin of Malin Space Science Systems, San Diego. "It's a great opening to the next stage of our mission."

Spirit's flight team at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), Pasadena, Calif., continues making progress toward getting the rover off its lander platform, but expected no sooner than early Thursday morning. "We're about to kick the baby

bird out of its nest," said JPL's Kevin Burke, lead mechanical engineer for the rover's egress off the lander.

The color panorama is a mosaic stitched from 225 frames taken by Spirit's panoramic camera, or Pancam. It spans 75 frames across, three frames tall, with color information from shots through three different filters. The images were calibrated at Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., home institution for Dr. Jim Bell, Pancam team leader.

Malin said, "Seeing the panorama totally assembled instead of in individual pieces gives a much greater appreciation for the position of things and helps in developing a sense of direction. I find it easier to visualize where I am on Mars when I can look at different directions in one view. For a field geologist, it's exactly the kind of thing you want to look at to understand where you are."

Another new image product from Spirit shows a patch of intriguing soil near the lander in greater detail than an earlier view of the same area. Scientists have dubbed the patch "Magic Carpet" for how some soil behaved when scraped by a retracting airbag.

"It has been detached and folded like a piece of carpet sliding across the floor," said science-team member Dr. John Grotzinger of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge.

Spirit's next step in preparing to drive onto the surface of Mars is to sever its final connection with the lander platform by firing a cable cutter, which Burke described as "an explosive guillotine." The planned sequence after that is a turn in place of 115 degrees clockwise, completed in three steps over the next two days. If no obstacles are seen from images taken partway through that turn, drive-off is planned toward the northwestern compass point of 286 degrees.

Spirit landed on Mars Jan. 3 (EST) after a seven-month journey. Its task is to spend the next three months exploring rocks and soil for clues about whether the past environment in Gusev Crater was ever watery and suitable to sustain life.

Spirit's twin Mars Exploration Rover, Opportunity, will reach Mars Jan. 25 (EST) to begin a similar examination of a site on a broad plain called Meridiani Planum, on the opposite side of the planet from Gusev Crater.

NASA JPL, a division of the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, manages the Mars Exploration Rover project for NASA's Office of Space Science, Washington.

For information about NASA and the Mars mission on the Internet, visit:  
<http://www.nasa.gov>

Additional information about the project is available on the Internet at: <http://marsrovers.jpl.nasa.gov>

Mission information is also available from Cornell University, at: <http://athena.cornell.edu>

(end text)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State.  
Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

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### **Text: U.S. Bans Civet Imports to Prevent SARS Spread**

*(Suspected that SARS virus may have jumped from civets to humans)*

U.S. Secretary of Health Tommy G. Thompson has announced a ban on the import of civets, a small animal native to Asia that is suspected of transmitting SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) to humans.

Though the link between the animal and disease is not proven, the January 13 announcement says the decision is intended to prevent transmission and spread of the flu-like illness, which is fatal in about 10 percent of cases. One theory public health officials in China are investigating is that the virus, unknown in the human population before last year, leapt from animals to humans through consumption, or through handling of the cat-sized

creatures. The meat is considered a delicacy to the Asian palate, and U.S. officials are concerned about the import of the animals as an exotic food.

SARS, highly contagious in some cases, started in China in late 2002 and began to spread in 2003 as travelers carried the disease to other countries. By the time the global outbreak ended in July, SARS had appeared in 29 countries. More than 8,400 people took ill with the flu-like disease; almost one thousand died.

SARS is caused by a coronavirus, similar to those pathogens that cause cold and flu. Scientists suspected that SARS might behave like those diseases and reappear when cold weather returned to the northern hemisphere. So far two suspected or proven SARS cases have appeared in China this season.

Further information on SARS is available from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/>

The World Health Organization maintains global information on the disease and that information is available at <http://www.who.int/csr/sars/en/index.html>

Following is the text of the announcement:

(begin text)

Department of Health and Human Services  
U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
January 13, 2004

### **HHS BANS CIVET IMPORTS, ACTION INTENDED TO PREVENT SPREAD OF SARS**

As part of the national plan to prevent the spread of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson today announced an immediate embargo on importation of civets to the United States. The small animals have been identified as a possible link to SARS transmission in China.

"Public health experts are concerned that civets may transmit SARS to humans, who may then pass it on to other people," Secretary Thompson said. "This

embargo will help us protect the American public and prevent introduction of SARS in the United States."

The embargo, which applies to dead and live civets as well as civet products, will remain in place until further notice. Civet products that have been processed to render them noninfectious, such as fully taxidermied animals and finished trophies, are not included in the embargo. The ban does not apply to those who received permission from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to import civet cats for educational or scientific purposes.

Public health officials are concerned about the possibility that the coronavirus that causes SARS was originally transmitted from animals to humans, sparking the 2003 SARS outbreak in Asia. Growing indirect evidence suggests exposure to certain wild animals may increase risk of infection. However, there is no evidence that humans were infected with the SARS coronavirus from direct contact with certain wild animals. Based on the limited data available, the most appropriate action at this time is that the movement of civets should be restricted and contact with them should be minimized.

SARS was first reported in Asia in February 2003 and spread to more than two dozen countries in North America, South America, Europe and Asia. In the United States, there were a total of 192 probable and suspect cases of SARS. Only eight were laboratory confirmed as SARS coronavirus and all of the patients recovered.

SARS is a viral respiratory illness that causes high fever and a number of other symptoms including headache, body aches and respiratory symptoms. SARS is fatal in about 10 percent of cases.

(end text)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State.  
Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

### Text: Georgia Lab Ensures Exports Meet International Standards

*(UN Development Program helps fund testing, certification facility)*

A new laboratory has been set up in Tbilisi, Georgia, to test a variety of export products and to certify that they conform to quality and environmental criteria set by the Geneva-based International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

The purpose is to help Georgian exports reach new markets.

The lab, which was partly funded by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), will also be used to help identify counterfeit items.

Following is a UNDP press release:

(begin text)

United Nations Development Programme  
7 January 2004

### GEORGIA LAB ENSURES EXPORTS MEET INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

Fruits, vegetables, minerals, chemicals and other goods from Georgia will have easier access to markets in Europe and beyond, thanks to a new laboratory in Tbilisi, the capital, which will test and certify that they meet international standards.

The Quality Testing Laboratory can determine if these products conform to quality and environmental criteria set by the Geneva-based International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

Georgians take pride in their products, and with ISO certification exporters hope to find new markets, especially within the European Union, and revitalize old ties with markets in Russia and elsewhere in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

UNDP and the Association of Georgian Exporters are each providing US\$150,000 for the lab, and the Tüv Nord Group, a German scientific and technical firm, is contributing \$100,000. The lab opened in

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October and expects to receive Georgian and European ISO certification within a few months.

"Until now, not a single lab in Georgia could give international certification," noted Paata Gogolidze, Executive Director of Tüv Nord's Georgia office.

The laboratory will protect domestic consumers and also promote exports, noted Minister of Economics, Industry and Trade, George Gachechiladze. "Lack of international certification has hindered Georgian exporters, and certification will help our products reach new markets," he said.

"Our immediate purpose is to support Georgian exporters," said the President of the Association of Georgian Exporters, Tamaz Agladze. "The cost of certification in Europe is enormous, and the laboratory therefore has a vital role."

The lab staff underwent training to operate its quality control equipment, as well as in managerial, technical and marketing skills. In addition to testing and certifying products for export, the lab will also help combat counterfeit items.

Among other Georgian products offered for export are timber, wine and brandy, mineral water, pharmaceuticals, fertilizer, engineering and construction materials, textiles, and oil and gas.

For further information please contact For further information please contact Ketí Ghioshvili, UNDP Georgia, or Sandra Pralong, UNDP Regional Support Centre, Bratislava, Slovak Republic.

(end text)

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Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

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### **Text: OSCE Honors Environmental Journalists in Armenia**

*(Environmental reporting raises public awareness of issues)*

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) on January 13 presented awards for environmental reporting to several TV, radio, and newspaper journalists in Armenia.

An OSCE press release on the competition said it is essential for journalists to be involved in the process of highlighting environmental issues because "it guarantees public participation in ecological decision-making and raising awareness on environmental issues."

Following is the release:

(begin text)

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Office in Yerevan  
13 January 2004

#### **Press Release**

#### **OSCE OFFICE IN YEREVAN PRESENTS AWARDS TO ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISTS**

YEREVAN, 13 January 2004 - Awards for the best TV, radio programmes and newspaper articles on environmental issues were presented yesterday in the OSCE Office in Yerevan.

"The media has a special role to play with regard to environmental issues," said Ambassador Vladimir Pryakhin, Head of the OSCE Office in Yerevan. "We believe that such a competition stimulates the journalistic community to be more active in covering environmental problems and thus attracting the attention of the public."

Some 50 journalists took part in the competition organised jointly by the OSCE Office in Yerevan and the "Environmental Survival" NGO. The jury consisted of representatives of the Board of Experts of the Public Environmental Information Centre (Aarhus Centre). The prize-winners in each category - TV, radio, newspapers - were presented with a special certificate and money awards by Ambassador Pryakhin.

The involvement of journalists in the process of highlighting environmental issues is essential, since it guarantees public participation in ecological decision-making and raising awareness on environmental issues, which are the requirements of the Aarhus Convention, ratified by Armenia in 2001.

The OSCE Office in Yerevan was established in February 2000 to promote the implementation of OSCE principles and commitments as well as the co-operation of the Republic of Armenia within the OSCE framework, in all OSCE dimensions, including the human, political, economic and environmental aspects of security and stability.

Following ratification of the Aarhus Convention by Armenia, the Office supported the establishment of the Public Environmental Information Centre (Aarhus Centre) at the Ministry of Nature Protection in 2002. The Centre is run by an independent Board of Experts with an advisory assistance from the international community.

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(end text)

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### **Text: Global Health Leaders Shape New Alliance on Violence Prevention**

*(Effort stems from emerging recognition of violence as a health issue)*

The World Health Organization (WHO) hosted a January 12-13 meeting of officials from 11 nations working to launch a new global alliance to prevent violence. The Global Interpersonal Violence Prevention Alliance (GIVPA) will unite organizations and governments to reduce the

adverse social and health effects of violence, according to a January 13 WHO press release.

A WHO report issued in October 2002 was the first extensive study to place violence in the context of public health. That report estimated that 1.6 million people are killed per year by violence; millions more die over time from injuries incurred in violence; millions more are disabled. Violence ranks among the world's leading causes of death for the 15-44 year old age group.

"GIVPA will bring together strong partners in research and data collection, training, advocacy and prevention programs," said Dr. Etienne Krug, director of WHO's Department of Injuries and Violence Prevention. "The continuing high trends of violence will not be reversed without this kind of commitment to cooperation and investment in prevention."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Department of Violence Prevention represented the United States at the meeting. U.S. activity to control violence is described on the agency's Web page at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/dvp/dvp.htm>

Other nations represented at the Geneva meeting were: Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Germany, Jordan, Mozambique, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Further information on the international violence prevention effort is available at [http://www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/en/](http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/en/)

Following is the text of the press release:

(begin text)

World Health Organization  
January 13, 2004

Broad coalition launches new global alliance to prevent violence

GENEVA -- Ministers of health and other officials from countries around the world are today laying the foundation for the Global Interpersonal



Violence Prevention Alliance (GIVPA). GIVPA will bring together national governments, United Nations agencies, academic institutions, civil society groups, and philanthropic and corporate foundations to advance the goal of preventing violence and reducing its adverse health and social consequences.

"Interpersonal violence kills 1,400 people every day and causes untold injuries and suffering," said WHO Director-General, Dr LEE Jong-wook. "This alliance is uniting a range of organizations and Member States around mutual violence prevention principles and policies and will strengthen our ability to address the problem."

The creation of this alliance comes 15 months after the global launch of WHO's World report on violence and health-the first comprehensive report of its kind to examine violence as a public health problem that causes 1.6 million deaths a year.

Governments around the world have already taken action on the report - undertaking violence prevention activities in more than 40 countries. National reports that examine specific country situations have been initiated in at least 10 countries. More than 15 governments have committed to developing a national plan of action for the prevention of violence.

In addition, significant resolutions have been adopted and policy debates have been the focus of international fora including major meetings of the WHO, the African Union, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and the World Medical Association.

"Our shared understanding of the complex underpinnings of violence is essential to creating solutions that will prevent people from becoming victims and perpetrators," said Dr Etienne Krug, Director, WHO Department of Injuries and Violence Prevention. "GIVPA will bring together strong partners in research and data collection, training, advocacy and prevention programmes. The continuing high trends of violence will not be reversed without this kind of commitment to cooperation and investment in prevention," he added.

At today's meeting, co-hosted by the government of the Republic and Canton of Geneva and WHO, leading decision-makers, from Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Germany, Jordan, Mozambique, South Africa, the United Kingdom, the United States and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia will examine the progress of violence prevention efforts in the last year and determine ways to continue to turn the report's recommendations into action.

(end text)

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Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

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### **State Department Conference Revisits the 1967 Attack on the U.S.S. Liberty**

*(Conference coincides with release of "Foreign Relations 1964-1968")*

By David Shelby  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- More than 35 years after Israel's attack on the U.S. signals intelligence ship U.S.S. Liberty, the event remains a source of lively controversy between those who believe the attack was the result of an unfortunate series of errors and those who insist it was a deliberate act on the part of Israel.

The U.S. State Department hosted a panel discussion on the events surrounding the attack in conjunction with the January 12 release of the Office of the Historian's 19th volume of "Foreign Relations 1964-1968."

The latest volume in this series of reports, which aims to present an apolitical exposition of documents relevant to the formation of U.S. foreign policy, deals specifically with the events surrounding the 1967 Arab-Israeli War and contains several passages directly related to the attack on the Liberty.

But while the report draws upon some previously classified documents in its analysis of the events, it does not succeed in laying the controversy to rest.

This was evident as representatives of the two sides of the issue squared off in debate at the State Department.

All of the parties agreed on the general outline of the events of June 8, 1967. The U.S.S. Liberty was sailing with the U.S. Sixth Fleet, but was acting on the orders of the National Security Agency (NSA). Previously declassified information from the NSA has confirmed that the ship was sent into the area to monitor Egyptian transmissions for any indication that Soviet personnel were operating with the Egyptian forces.

Following the outbreak of hostilities, several messages were sent to the Liberty instructing her to stay at least 100 miles offshore, but for some reason, these messages were not received. The ship proceeded with her initial orders to take up position the morning of June 8, 14 miles off the northern shore of Sinai, which was in international waters but within the war zone.

Several Israeli planes passed over the Liberty during the morning hours, and all parties agree that Israeli surveillance planes identified the ship as a friendly vessel.

Nevertheless, at 2:00 pm, Israeli jets attacked the ship, flying six strafing runs and dropping napalm on the deck. Twenty minutes later, Israeli torpedo boats launched an attack, blowing a hole in the starboard hull.

Of the ship's crew, which numbered 294 men, 34 were killed and 172 were wounded. The crew managed to keep the ship afloat long enough to limp into the port of Malta, but the vessel was deemed unsalvageable and was sold for scrap.

The agreement of pundits and scholars who have studied and written about the event ends there.

An Israeli report issued after an internal enquiry into the affair confirms that Israeli surveillance planes identified the ship as a friendly vessel during the early morning hours but says that the friendly identification marker was removed upon the changing of the guard at Israeli Navy headquarters at 11:00 am. The report explains that this was a standard procedure based on the assumption that a

vessel sighted several hours earlier would no longer be in the vicinity.

Shortly after the changing of the guard, Israeli headquarters received reports from Israeli infantry forces in El-Arish in the Sinai indicating that they had come under attack from an Egyptian vessel stationed offshore.

According to the Israeli report, Israeli torpedo boats dispatched to the area spotted the Liberty moving in the direction of Port Said, Egypt and assumed it was an Egyptian vessel headed home.

The Israelis claimed to have estimated the Liberty's speed at 30 knots, although the U.S. Navy says the ship was only traveling at five knots. At 30 knots, the Israeli report said, the Israeli torpedo boats would not have been able to catch up with the ship before it reached Port Said.

Consequently, the report explains, airpower was called in to disable the vessel. After several strafing runs, one of the pilots noted the ship's markings and alerted Israeli air command, which then called off the air attack.

Nevertheless, the torpedo boats, still under Naval command, continued to approach the vessel and reported coming under machine gun fire. At that point, the report says, the Israeli vessels responded with a torpedo attack.

Critics of the Israeli version of the story find it implausible that anyone in a decision-making capacity in Israel would not have known that the Liberty was an American ship. They cite the numerous overflights and Israel's acknowledgement that its pilots had identified the ship as American.

The critics of the Israeli version of events also note that the Liberty was flying an American flag at the time of the attack and that an even larger flag was hoisted after the initial strafing blew off the first flag.

The Israelis maintain that no flag was noted at the time of the attack and say that the pilots were simply under orders to verify that it was not an Israeli vessel -- an identification that they would have made based on deck markings.

Reports differ on the altitude of the attacking jets' initial overflights and on whether or not the pilots would have been able to identify the flag that was 1.5 meters wide and 2.4 meters long.

The critics of the Israeli version also maintain that the Egyptian ship for which the Liberty was allegedly mistaken -- the cargo ship El-Quseir -- bore no resemblance to the Liberty.

Critics of the Israeli version are also critical of the U.S. government for not carrying out a full investigation of the incident.

The U.S. Navy issued a report based on its own internal enquiry into evidence gathered from crewmembers and other personnel attached to the Sixth Fleet. The critics say the evidence has been tampered with and that the report was altered due to pressure from Washington.

The critics are less certain about what motivation Israel would have to deliberately attack a U.S. vessel. Some have offered the explanation that the Israelis attacked for fear that the spy ship was gathering information on Israel's planned foray into Syria.

Other scholars say this seems unlikely because the Israelis had already informed American officials of these plans. Still others have suggested that the Israelis attacked for fear that the Americans were monitoring their summary executions of Egyptian POW's.

The newly released State Department report does not appear to resolve any of the outstanding controversy, as the documents upon which it is based do not shed light on operations or decision making processes internal to Israel.

The report does, however, offer insight into how the event was perceived and dealt with in the highest foreign policymaking circles in Washington. It contains communications between President Lyndon Johnson and many of his key advisors including Special Assistant Walt Rostow, Defense Secretary Robert McNamara and Secretary of State Dean Rusk.

It also contains communications between the State Department and the Defense Attache at the U.S. embassy in Tel Aviv as well as internal reports from the National Security Council, the Defense Department and the Navy.

The Washington-Moscow hotline, established in 1963 following the Cuban missile crisis, received its first use during the 1967 War, and the new report includes several messages exchanged between Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin and President Johnson.

In all, the report conveys a picture of an administration that perceived the unraveling events in the framework of the Cold War. Assumptions and assessments were made with an eye to the global balance of power between the United States and the Soviet Union.

When the Liberty first came under attack, the initial assumption seems to have been that Soviet backed Egyptian forces were responsible, and the Sixth Fleet scrambled several fighters to protect the ship.

When Israeli officials notified the U.S. defense attache that they were responsible for the attack and offered their apologies, the fighters were recalled. The attitude in Washington was one of dismay that the Israelis could make such an error.

This latest volume of the Foreign Relations report, analyzing the events from mid-May 1967 through the passage of United Nations Security Council resolution 242 in November 1967 may be accessed online at the State Department's website:

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ho/frus/johnsonlb/xix/>

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)